

**GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA
SESSION 2021**

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HOUSE BILL 258

Short Title: Ocean Isle Museum Foundation Funds. (Public)

Sponsors: Representatives Iler and Miller (Primary Sponsors).

For a complete list of sponsors, refer to the North Carolina General Assembly web site.

Referred to: Appropriations, if favorable, Rules, Calendar, and Operations of the House

March 11, 2021

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT APPROPRIATING FUNDS TO THE OCEAN ISLE MUSEUM FOUNDATION FOR
CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS, STORM WATER DAMAGE REPAIRS, AND LOST
REVENUE DUE TO COVID-19-RELATED SHUTDOWNS.

Whereas, Ocean Isle Beach Foundation, Inc., is the responsible body for the Museum of Coastal Carolina at Ocean Isle Beach and the Ingram Planetarium at Sunset Beach; and

Whereas, the Museum of Coastal Carolina has been operating and serving Brunswick County and surrounding communities since May 1991; and

Whereas, the Ingram Planetarium has been operating and serving Brunswick County and surrounding communities since May 2002; and

Whereas, the Museum and Planetarium combined served over 40,000 total visitors, including 6,000 school children, during their last year of operation before shutting down for the COVID-19-related lockdown; and

Whereas, the Museum and Planetarium have sustained weather damage to roofs and walls, most markedly during hurricanes, including Floyd and Florence; and

Whereas, the Museum and Planetarium have lost significant revenue during the COVID-19-related shutdown; and

Whereas, the Museum and Planetarium have been unable to hold normal fundraising events, due to COVID-19-related restrictions; and

Whereas, these losses and needs total \$242,000 in repairs and renovations and \$150,000 in unreimbursed revenue losses; and

Whereas, the Museum and Planetarium are deserving of support to bring their facilities back to regular safety, health, and operational standards; Now, therefore,

The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

SECTION 1. There is appropriated from the General Fund to the Ocean Isle Museum Foundation, Inc., a nonprofit organization, the sum of three hundred ninety-two thousand dollars (\$392,000) in nonrecurring funds for the 2021-2022 fiscal year for repairs, renovations, and operating losses sustained due to repeated weather events and COVID-19-related lockdowns.

SECTION 2. This act becomes effective July 1, 2021.

